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The University of Dayton

News Release

Nov. 14, 1991
Contact: Jim Feuer

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON AND PURCELL MARIAN LAUNCH AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM

DAYTON, Ohio -- About 40 students at Purcell Marian High School in Cincinnati are learning about cultural diversity and African-American history in a yearlong project involving University of Dayton educators.

Under the African-American Studies Program, UD faculty and Dayton community leaders travel to Purcell Marian once a month to give workshops and presentations on such topics as African-American literature, the evolution of gospel music and African-American Catholics' impact on the church.

The Purcell Marian students also come to UD. They already have attended a leadership conference and will return in January for the University's Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration.

The program is intended "to help Purcell Marian get a feel for what it can do on its own in terms of African-American programming, responding to the cultural needs of its African-American students and even responding to cultural diversity in a general sense," says Tim Spraggins, assistant director of minority student affairs at UD.

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Spraggins says Purcell Marian officials plan to do their own, in-house African-American programming beginning next year.

Some of the Purcell Marian students receive academic credit for attending all workshops and retreats; those not receiving credit do not have to attend all sessions. The events are held in the evening so that parents and people in the community also can attend.

About 36 percent of Purcell Marian students are black.

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For media interviews, contact **Tim Spraggins** at (513) 229-3686.